2. It has been brought to the notice of the MoEF that the ship has violated the United States Toxic Substances Control Act (USTSCA) and an order has been passed, by the United States Environment Protection Authority (USEPA) against the owners of the ship. There were also allegations that the ship has been brought into India with a falsified flag and registry.

3. Keeping in view the "Precautionary Principle", the MoEF has communicated to GMB that granting permission for beaching and breaking purpose of the ship will not be advisable.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Swaminathan Commission for Restructuring of Commodity Boards

2462. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.S. Swaminathan Commission has recommended restructuring of various commodity boards so that they can be better catalyst for the productivity and quality; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No such recommendation has been made by the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) set up under the chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. However, in the context of conservation, cultivation and marketing of medicinal plants, it made a recommendation for mandating different commodity boards for promoting intercropping with plantation crops like coffee, rubber, spices and coconut.

Miserable condition of farmers of Bundelkhand

†2463. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount of loans waived off by Government for drought hit farmers of Vidarbha;

(b) the measures being taken by Government to improve the plight of farmers there;

(c) whether Government is working on a plan for waiver of loans given to the farmers of Bundelkhand facing drought for the last five years; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to improve the plight of farmers of Bundelkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) An amount of Rs. 1235.80 crore was provided towards Debt Waiver for the farmers of Vidarbha under Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 of Union Government. Apart from this, an amount of Rs. 457.58 crore was also provided to the farmers of Vidarbha under Agricultural Debt Waiver & Debt Relief Scheme, 2009 of Govt. of Maharashtra.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The Govt. is implementing various Centrally Sponsored Programmes *viz* National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna, National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management of Agriculture, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management, Support to Agriculture Extension Services, Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package (in six districts of Vidarbha *viz* Akola, Amrawati, Buldana, Wardha, Yavatmal and Washim), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) etc. to improve agricultural production and create adequate employment opportunities.

(c) The farmers of Bundelkhand are already covered under "Agricultural Debt Waiver & Agricultural Debt Relief Scheme, 2008" of Union Government.

(d) The Government has recently approved a special Bundelkhand Drought Mitigation Package of Rs.7266.00 crore comprising Rs. 3506.00 crore for Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 3760.00 crore for Madhya Pradesh to be implemented over a period of three years.

Bribe given to officials of Central Insecticides Board

2464. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DE-Noal Corp Protection (Ltd.) which is a subsidiary of Dow Chemicals paid bribe to the extent of $39,700 to an official of Central Insecticides Board to expedite registration of three products of the company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of such officials to whom bribe was paid; and

(d) the action Government has taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Following reports in connection with the proceedings taken up by the Securities and Exchange Commission of United States of America that DE-Nocil, a subsidiary company of Dow Chemicals, had made improper payments to a member of Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticidies Act, 1968, for expeditious registration of three of its products, an inquiry was ordered into the matter and a case has been registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation against Dr. R.L. Rajak, the then Plant Protection Adviser, and some private persons and companies.

Steps to increase wheat production

2465. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether to compensate the losses of paddy output Government is now going to increase the country's wheat production to a record 84 million tonnes in 2009-10 season;